

College & Career Ready Assessment (CCRA)

Frequently Asked Questions – *Updated!*

The 2015-16 school year marks the second year of implementing the high school graduation requirement as defined by HB 278 – Alaska’s Education Opportunity Act. The law requires all grade 11 students, and all grade 12 students who have not previously done so, to take a college or career readiness assessment (CCRA) to earn a high school diploma in Alaska. The CCRA assessments are defined in statute and regulation as WorkKeys, ACT, and SAT. Students have the option to take either the career-readiness assessment (WorkKeys) or a college-readiness assessment (ACT or SAT).

Every school must offer either the ACT or the SAT during the school day; districts may choose to offer both. Districts may also choose to have National Testing sessions on the designated Saturday.

CCRA General Questions

If a student passed all three sections of the HSGQE as a 10th grader during the 2013-2014 school year, does this student have to take one of the college/career-ready assessments in order to graduate?

The new law (to take a college & career-ready assessment or CCRA) is **not** a substitute for the previous law (pass the HSGQE).

(The HSGQE was repealed. If a student did not earn a diploma because they did not pass they can contact their district and replace their certificate of achievement with a diploma.)

Students who are currently enrolled must take either a college-readiness (ACT or SAT) or the career-readiness assessment (WorkKeys).

If a 12 grade student took a College and Career Assessment two years before their expected graduation date as determined by their local school district, would their assessment count toward graduation?

Yes, Sec. 14.03.075--The department shall provide funding for the fee for a single administration of a college and career readiness assessment for each secondary student within two years of the student's **expected** graduation.

For example: If a current 12th grade student took all 3 WorkKeys tests in the fall of 2012, this assessment would count towards meeting the graduation requirement.

If a school offers all three College & Career Readiness Assessments (WorkKeys, SAT and ACT), can a student take all three at EED’s expense?

No. EED will only reimburse districts for one of the College & Career Readiness Assessments (CCRAs) per student and only for students who take the test on state-paid testing dates. The test dates for the 2015-16 school year are as follows:

SAT:

- SAT National Test Day: January 23, 2016
- SAT School Day: March 2, 2016 (*redesigned*)
- SAT School Makeup Test Day: April 27, 2016 (*redesigned*)

ACT:

- ACT National Test Day: February 6, 2016
- ACT In-School Online Window: March 1-15, 2016 (*NEW!*)
- ACT In-School P/P: March 1, 2016
- ACT In-School P/P Makeup Test Day: March 29, 2016
- ACT In-School Accommodations Window (Online & P/P): March 1-15, 2016

WorkKeys:

- WorkKeys Internet Window: November 9, 2015 – April 1, 2016
- WorkKeys P/P: March 2, 2016
- WorkKeys P/P Makeup Test Day: March 30, 2016
- WorkKeys P/P Accommodations Window: March 2-16, 2016

Can school districts require students to take the WorkKeys in addition to ACT/SAT?

Yes; however, EED does not require WorkKeys in addition to a college readiness assessment. EED is finalizing a process for invoicing districts that would like to provide WorkKeys to students in addition to ACT/SAT. The state would invoice the school district for the WorkKeys assessment.

How do I prepare my school to administer both the ACT In-School and SAT School Day testing?

All high schools must apply for a *High School Code* from the Educational Testing Center (ETS). This includes all high school correspondence schools and youth facilities. These codes will link students with the school, so student score reports are sent to their home schools. Once approved by ETS, all schools will receive a Level 1 or Level 2 code. A Level 1 designation allows schools to provide only in-school day testing. A Level 2 code allows schools to administer tests on school days or national administration days (a Level 2 Code shows the school has been established as a National Test Center).

How do I prepare my school to become a National Test Center to administer the Saturday testing?**ACT National Day Testing**

If your school is planning to administer the ACT on Saturday, February 6, 2016, and your school has not previously been approved as an ACT National Test Center, you **must** submit a Request for Test Center Establishment Form to ACT for approval: <http://www.act.org/aap/k12/testcenter.html>
This process is not necessary if you are only administering the ACT In-School assessments.

SAT National Day Testing

If your school is planning to administer the SAT on Saturday, January 23, 2016, and your school has not previously been approved as an SAT National Test Center, you **must** submit a College Board Test Center Application for approval:
<https://satresourcecenter.collegeboard.org/inquire-sat-test-center>
This process is not necessary if you are only administering the SAT School Day assessments.

Can students opt to take the ACT or SAT at a National Test Center (on a Saturday) and use that to replace the in-school testing that will be paid by EED?

Yes. There is one designated National Testing Day for each assessment paid by EED. Students must register using a voucher (ACT) or paper registration (SAT).

Will school districts be able to access the information as to which districts are offering all College and Career Ready Assessments?

Yes. When EED has the list of what each school is offering, we will provide access to this information to all District Test Coordinators to facilitate cooperative agreements for in-school testing. We will also provide information about which National Test Center sites are giving the assessment on the designated National Testing days that EED will pay for.

Are ACT and SAT National Test Centers obligated to test anyone who registers and shows up to take either the SAT or ACT on a national test day?

Yes. Students are able to choose the test location of a National Test Center when they register. Upon completion of the registration process, a student will be guaranteed a seat at that site. EED is also advising the National Test Centers that they may have more students on the SAT National Test day, Saturday, January 23, and the ACT Saturday, February 6, National Test day, than they previously have had in the past.

Is the SAT or ACT offered electronically?

Yes! For the first time, the ACT is being offered online as part of our “In-School” state contract. The SAT is currently only offered as a paper/pencil assessment. WorkKeys is offered in both a paper/pencil format and as an online assessment [Internet Version (IV)].

Are any additional resources available for in-school testing to help offset expenses related to bringing in substitutes to help test, monitor, or oversee testing?

No. The school district will be responsible for covering all costs associated with the in-school CCRA except for the actual test cost. EED will cover the full cost of one assessment per student of either the SAT School Day, ACT In-School or WorkKeys.

Will schools be obligated to prepare seating arrangements for in-school testing?

Yes. All three college and career readiness assessments have test administration requirements regarding seating arrangements. Charts can be found in the separate test administration manuals.

Can a student who is not a junior take the ACT In-School or SAT School Day test? Even if the student pays?

No. The state-paid assessment dates are only for juniors and eligible seniors who were not able to test as a junior.

If a junior does not take a CCRA, can the student take one of the assessments during their senior year to meet graduation requirements?

Yes. A student who missed the opportunity in grade 11 has the opportunity to take one of the EED-paid assessments during their senior year. Students also can take one of the assessments outside of the set dates at their own expense. This must be done in grade 11 or 12.

If a student takes the SAT or ACT independently of the school district’s set CCRA established test dates, can this assessment count towards the graduation requirement?

Yes. When students register to take the ACT or SAT independently of a school district’s set CCRA established test dates, they need to have their scores sent to their school district. The school district

must have evidence of these scores and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure the test scores are sent to the school district.

What is a “valid score”?

For the January SAT (*current SAT*): If students answer 11 or more questions, the student will receive three scores. If ten or fewer questions are answered, the student will receive no score. Regardless of what section(s) the student answers 11 questions in (whether all in one section or spread out), the student would receive three scores. The lowest score is 200.

For ACT: At least 1 question must be answered; the minimum score is 1.

For WorkKeys: If a student does not receive a minimum score of 3 on any of the three assessments (Locating Information, Reading for Information and Applied Math) the score is recorded as a zero. A zero is considered a valid score. If there is no recorded score, the student did not meet the “valid” score requirement.

How do school districts account for students who change schools mid-year or alternative schools with high transiency rates?

Grade 11 students who change schools during mid- year are still required to take a CCRA to receive a diploma. If a student misses the opportunity due to transiency then they can take a CCRA in grade 12. If a student registers in one school and is at a different school on test day, school districts can use overage test supplies to test this student – test materials are assigned by each vendor to a specific school and cannot be transferred with a student to another school.

What is the process for a school district to receive a waiver for students who are unable to meet the CCRA requirement for graduation?

The waiver process for students unable to meet the CCRA graduation requirement has been approved; however, the regulation is currently out for public comment again expand waiver requirements. The regulations detail specific requirements that must be met in order to apply for a waiver, such as specific medical conditions, rare or unusual circumstances, entering the public school system late, etc. If a student meets the specific requirements listed in regulation, the school district submits to the governing body, on a form prescribed by the Department of Education & Early Development, a complete waiver request. Waiver forms are currently available on EED’s Forms & Grants page under Assessments - CCRA at: <https://education.alaska.gov/forms/>.

What is the CCRA requirement for students with significant cognitive disabilities?

The IEP team for a student with a significant cognitive disability will determine whether the student will take the CCRA assessment based on the transition plan in the student’s IEP.

If a student with special needs does not take these tests for any reason, will the student be eligible to receive an Alaska high school diploma?

No, the student is not eligible to receive a high school diploma. However, the student is eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement (COA) if they have met all other school district requirements for high school graduation.

If a student meets all state and local requirements for graduation but does not take a CCRA they are awarded a Certification of Achievement (COA). After exiting school, can he/she take a CCRA, provide it to the district, and have a diploma awarded?

A provision in regulation to allow a person with a COA to take a CCRA and receive a diploma is currently out for public comment. To review the draft regulation (4 AAC 06.718) regarding “returning adults” visit <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/>. The proposed regulation change will be heard by the State Board of Education & Early Development on September 17, 2015.

Should foreign exchange students participate in one of the three CCRAs?

Yes, a foreign exchange student is enrolled in a school district, the school district receives funding for this student, and therefore the student should be provided all the services (including testing) that are provided to all students.